

## VI. CLAIMS

1. A pine cone collecting and holding tool comprising in combination:

an elongate tubular body defining a medial channel and having an upper end portion opening to said medial channel and a lower end portion opening to said medial channel and defining first fastening means and;

an entry structure having an annular peripheral rim defining an orifice geometrically similar to and larger than the lower end portion of the tubular body to fit over the lower portion of the tubular body, said peripheral rim;

defining second fastening means to releasably interconnect with the first fastening means of the body for positional maintenance of the peripheral rim on the body, and

a at least two of resiliently deformable triangular-like fingers spacedly carried about the inner surface of the rim to extend radially inwardly spacedly distant from each other to define an orifice between the fingers to allow

passage of pine cones therethrough upon deformation of at least one of said fingers responsive to force exerted upon the at least two of said fingers by the pine cones.

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2. The tool of Claim 1 wherein the body and the peripheral rim have circularly cylindrical configurations.

3. The tool of Claim 1 further having at least one manipulating handle extending radially outwardly from structural interconnection with the body spacedly inwardly from the upper end portion thereof.

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4. The tool of Claim 3 further characterized by the at least one manipulating handle having a U-shaped body with similar opposed parallel legs extending perpendicularly from each end thereof, said legs carrying perpendicularly extending fastening brackets having means for fastening to the tool body.

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5. The tool of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of

fingers of the entry structure are coplanar.

6. The tool of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of fingers is angulated in a radially inward direction toward the tool body and at an angle of not more than about twenty degrees to a plane parallel to the peripheral rim.

7. The tool of Claim 1 wherein each of the fingers defines a medial radially extending slot terminating in its radially outer portion in a bulbous enlargement to allow the radially inner portions of each finger to move substantially independently of each other.

8. The tool of Claim 1 formed of one of the plastics of the group containing polyethylene, polyurethane and polypropylene.

9. The tool of Claim 1 wherein the first fastening means carried by the lower end portion of the body comprise external threads and the second fastening means carried by the inner surface of the rim of the entry

5 structure comprises internal threads that matingly enmesh  
to releasably interconnect the body and the entry  
structure.

10. The tool of Claim 1 wherein the diameter of the  
medial channel of the body is approximately two to twelve  
inches and the axial length of the body is approximately  
twenty-four to forty-eight inches.

11. A pine cone collecting and holding tool  
comprising in combination:

5 an elongately circularly cylindrical tubular  
body having a medial channel, an axial length of  
between twenty-four and forty-eight inches and a  
diameter of between four and ten inches, said body

10 having an upper end portion opening to the  
medial channel and a lower end portion defining  
first fastening means about an orifice opening  
to the medial channel;

at least two U-shaped manipulating handles  
carried in diametrically opposed positions on the  
body spacedly downwardly from the upper end portion;

and

15 entry structure at the lower end portion of the  
body having

an annular peripheral rim with an internal  
diameter larger than the external diameter of  
the lower portion of the body to fit thereover,  
20 said annular rim defining second fastening means  
on its inner surface to matingly fasten with the  
first fastening means defined in the lower  
portion of the body,

a plurality of circumferentially spaced  
25 triangular-like fingers carried by the  
peripheral rim to extend radially inwardly to a  
position spacedly distant from the inner  
portions of each other finger, each of said  
fingers formed of resiliently deformable  
30 material having retentent memory and defining a  
medial slot extending radially outwardly from  
the inner end portions of the fingers to  
terminate in a bulbous enlargement to allow the  
radially inner end portions of each finger to  
35 move relative to each other.